



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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TO: Health Care Providers

New AFB Specimen Submission Requirements

Beginning **April 18, 2011**, the Respiratory Disease Division (RDD) of the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories will begin receiving orders and sending results via the laboratory information management system (LIMS).

- All counties that are currently online may begin ordering by PHALCON and include one form with each specimen submitted.
- All counties not online and other health care providers will only have to submit one form with each specimen sent for testing.
 - * Both smear and culture forms will no longer be required. Either smear or culture forms that are currently available will automatically order both a smear and culture.
 - * Health care providers that are submitting a growing culture will need to submit only one form: either smear or culture.
- The LIMS generated reports will be available to entities online or will be sent by current delivery methods.
- Smears on clinical specimens will be reported as preliminary pending the culture; and the culture result will finalize the complete report.
- If a drug susceptibility is required, it will also be reported with the smear and culture history preceding it.

LIMS will streamline the reporting process for specimens submitted to RDD. Counties and entities that are integrated with the LIMS will be able to access results online and print them. Any provider wishing to connect to this system should contact someone with the BCL's LIMS at 334-260-3400.

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